

Message Text

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SUBJ: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

THE BULLETIN (CONSERVATIVE) OF AUGUST 25 (EVENING) IN AN EDITORIAL DEVOTED TO THE LIMA MEETING AND THE MIDDLE EAST, ENTITLED "MALTA AT LIMA/ COMMENTS:

" AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED THE CONFERENCE IN LIMA WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MOTION THAT HAS BEEN MOVED FORWARD BY SYRIA TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS; THE RESOLUTION CLAIMS THAT ISRAEL IS OCCUPYING PALESTINIAN LAND AND CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. IT IS TOO EARLY TO SEE IF THE SYRIAN MOTION WILL SUCCEED, AND WILL THUS HAVE BETTER SUCCESS THAN THE MOVE THAT STARTED IN THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, WHERE IT WAS SHUNNED AND DEFEATED.

THAT THE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE IN A POSITION TO DRAG ALONG WITH THEM OTHERS WHO HAVE HFBME TO BE ENTIRELY YAPENDENT ON THEM, OR BECAUSE OF THE ANTIPATHY WHICH THEY HOLD TOWARDS THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WILL BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, BUT IN THE UGANDA MEETING OF THE O.A.U. THEY COULD NOT DRAG ALONG WITH THEM THE MEMBER OF THE ORGANISATION.YR THE GROUP REPRESENTED IN LIMA IS A FORMIDABLE GROUP, NUMERICALLY, AND IT IS TURE THEY HAVZAA VOTE AS MUCH AS THE SUPER POWERS, BUT THIS WILL ALSO MEAN THAT THE SITUATION IN ISRAEL IWLL BE JEOPARDISED, AND THE ENDEAVOURS THAT ARE BEING MEDE AILL RESULT TO NOUGHT.

IT WILL BE DEVASTATING IF AFTER THE TITANIC EFFORTS THAT ARE BEING
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MADE NOW TO REACH AN AGREEMENT THAT COULD OPEN THE WAY TO A

LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IT WOULD BE JEOPARDISED BY WHAT COULD BE DECIDED AT LIMA. THOSE WHO ARE FAR FROM THE AREA, COULD NOT CARE LESS IF THE MIDDLE EAST BECOMES A BOILING COALDRON, BUT IF OTHERS WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER, FOOLISHLY ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE MANIPULATED THEN IT WILL BE THE GREATEST DISASTER THAT COULD HAPPEN SINCE THE 1967 WAR.

FEW SHOULD BE UNDER ANY ILLUSION THAT IF WAR WERE TO BREAK OUT IN THE MIDDLE EAST IT WILL NOT BE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE TURNED INTO A FIREBALL - WITH THE DISTINCT POSSIBILITY OF MALTA BECOMING INVOLVED. HERE IS A POSSIBILITY FOR MALTA TO PUT THE SUGGESTION THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN BE KEPT NEUTRAL INTO ACTUAL PRACTICE. OUR DELEGATION IS AWARE OF THESE DANGERS - AND SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP THEM AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE. A MOVE TO SUSPEND ISRAEL COULD RESULT IN THE BREAKDOWN OF PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST - THE ALTERNATIVE IS WAR. IT IS NOT THE SUPER POWERS THAT ARE BRINGING WAR TO THE AREA, BUT THE RECKLESSNESS OF A POLICY THAT DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES. IT WILL BE UP TO MALTA'S DELEGATION TO PROMULGATE ITSELF AT LIMA TO STOP ANY MOVE THAT COULD LEAD TO A DETERIORATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. IT HAS A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY. IT SHOULD NOT SHIRK IT. BIRN

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